

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 15, 17, 30, and 31 have been amended, Claims 6, 7, 16, 22, and 23 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, Claims 1-5, 8-15, 17-21, and 24-31 are pending. Applicant, furthermore, notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication, in paragraph 9 of the Office action, of allowable subject matter, namely, of Claims 7, 16, 23, and 31, provided they are re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has carefully considered the application in view of the Examiner's action and the allowable subject matter and, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

As a preliminary matter, Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor informality, namely, to amend "apparatus" to be consistent with the term "system" used in the preamble and dependent claims, without adding any new matter to the application as originally filed.

Claims 1, 8-10, 17, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,748,765 to Martin (hereinafter "*Martin*"). Claims 1, 3-5, 17, 19, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,564,010 to Huang et al. (hereinafter "*Huang*"). Claims 2 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martin* in view of *Huang*. Claims 3-5, 11-14, 19-21, and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martin*. Claims 6, 15, 22, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huang* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,962,019 to McDougle. Claims 6, 15, 22, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Martin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,901 to Basala. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 6 and 22, without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection thereof moot, and has amended independent Claims 1 and 17 such that they now more clearly distinguish, and are patentable over the cited references.

Specifically, independent Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claims 7 and 23, respectively, without adding any new matter to the application as originally filed. Claims 1 and 17, as thus amended, are substantively identical to, and contain all the limitations that would have been present in, Claims 7 and 23 had Claims 7

and 23 been amended to comply with the Examiner's requirement for allowability, namely, that Claims 7 and 23, would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims (i.e., Claims 1 and 17, respectively) and any intervening claims (none). It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 17 comply with the Examiner's requirement for allowability, and thereby clearly and precisely distinguish over *Martin* and *Huang* in a patentable sense, and are thus allowable over *Martin* and *Huang* and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Martin* and *Huang* be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 15, 30, and 31 have been amended to be consistent with independent Claims 1 and 17, as amended, without adding any new matter to the application as originally filed.

Claims 2-5, 8-15, 18-21, and 24-31 depend from and further limit independent Claims 1 and 17, in a patentable sense, and, for this reason and the reasons set forth above, are also deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-5, 8-15, 18-21, and 24-31 be withdrawn, as well.

Applicant does not believe any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper; however, in the event that any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2032 of Scheef & Stone, L.L.P.

It is noted that since independent Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 7 and 23, now cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, no further consideration and/or search should be required, and the application should be in condition for allowance. Therefore, with appreciative acknowledgement of Examiner Jiang's indication of allowable subject matter in connection with Claims 7, 16, 23, and 31, Applicant respectfully requests, for the reasons set forth herein and for other reasons clearly apparent, full allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-15, 17-21, and 24-31 so that the application may be passed to issue.

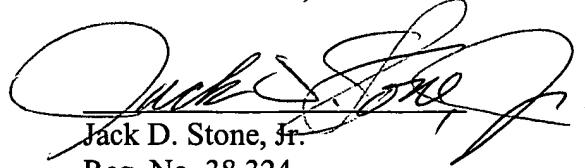
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Should the Examiner have any questions or desire clarification of any sort, or deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.



Jack D. Stone, Jr.
Reg. No. 38,324

5956 Sherry Lane, Suite 1400
Dallas, TX 75225
Telephone: (214) 706-4210
Fax: (214) 706-4242
jack.stone@scheefandstone.com